

REMARKS

Claims 7-13 remain pending in the present application. Claims 7, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claim 13 has been added. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for not showing every feature as specified in the claims. Applicants have deleted the term "hollow" and believe the drawing rejection to be moot.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected Claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended Claims 11 and 12 in an attempt to overcome the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection and respectfully request withdrawal of the same.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging them to be unpatentable over Mizukoshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,296,321) in view of Mizukoshi et al. (U.S Patent No. 5,975,767).

Claim 7 has been amended. Claim 7 further defines a semi-floating wheel bearing apparatus structure structured as a unit of a wheel hub and a double row rolling bearing. The unit includes, among other features, a partition wall integrally formed on the wheel hub at its outboard side to close a central bore of the wheel hub.

The Mizukoshi et al. '321 reference cited by the Examiner fail to illustrate Applicant's claim. Neither of the Mizukoshi et al. references relate to a semi-floating bearing apparatus. The '321 reference does not illustrate any type of partition wall. Further, it is not utilized in a semi-floating environment. The '767 reference is not a semi-floating type of the wheel bearing apparatus. The partition wall does not obtain rigidity to a bending moment as in the present claim.

Thus, Applicant believes Claim 7 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Claim 8-10, which depend from Claim 7, are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging it to be unpatentable over Mizukoshi et al (USP '321) and Mizukoshi et al. (USP '767) further in view of Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 7,255,482).

The Yamamoto reference fails to overcome the deficiencies of the two Mizuhoshi et al. references. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 10 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

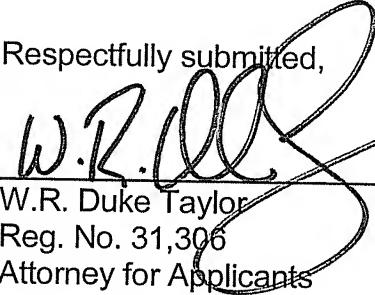
Applicant has rewritten Claims 11 and 12 and believes them to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

New Claim 13 has been added. New Claim 13 further defines a partition wall. Applicant believes Claim 13 to be condition for allowance.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,


W.R. Duke Taylor
Reg. No. 31,306
Attorney for Applicants

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
(248) 641-1600

Date: January 27, 2010
WRDT/lkj

Attorney Docket No. 6340-000083/NP

15291513.1